



TUESDAY  
May 17, 2011

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# THE CHRONICLE-NEWS

50 CENTS  
TRINIDAD  
COLORADO

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## THE FINE PRINT

### TUESDAY

#### Kiwanis

Meet for lunch and program at noon at A Little Catering Co., 916 Arizona. Scheduled speaker is Chairman Kolby Melton of the Las Animas County Damage Prevention Council. Information: Jeff Mangino, 719-846-9881.

#### Primero Schools

District Board of Education meets in executive session at 5 p.m. with regular session to follow at 6 p.m. in the Primero School Cafeteria, 20200 Highway 12, Weston. Information: Tina East, 719-868-2715.

#### Hoehne Fire Protection

District Board of Directors meets 6:30 p.m. at the Hoehne Fire Station. All interested persons are invited to attend. Information: 719-846-2080.

#### Trinidad City Council

Meets in regular session at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 135 N. Animas St., Third Floor. Information: City Clerk Audra Garrett, 719-846-9843.

### WEDNESDAY

#### Chamber Luncheon

Trinidad and Las Animas County Chamber of Commerce "Business During Lunch" meets at noon in the Pioneer Room at Trinidad State Junior College, 600 Prospect St. RSVP: Marty Hackett, 719-846-9285.

#### Trauma Advisory

Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado Council meets at noon in the Miners' Colfax Medical Center, Long Term Conference Room, 900 S. Sixth St., Raton, N.M. Information: Henrietta Romero, 575-445-3661.

#### Las Animas County

E-911 Authority Board meets 1:30 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room, 135 N. Animas. Information: Rita Mantelli, 719-846-4441.

#### Fishers Peak

Fire Protection Board of Directors meets at 6 p.m. in the Starkville Fire Station #1. Information: 719-846-6077. Public is invited.

#### Trinidad Schools

District Accountability meeting at 6 p.m. in the Trinidad School District Office, Board of Education Room, 215 S. Maple. Information: 719-846-3324.

#### Veterans Council

The Las Animas County Veterans Council for the Preservation of Fort Wooten meets at 7 p.m. in the Chamber of Commerce office, 136 W. Main St., Room 206. Information: John Garduno, 719-680-1277.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

#### Armed Forces Day

Parade begins at 11 a.m. Saturday. If you are interested in riding on a float, please call Bob Ling at 719-859-0743. Parade Route is along Main St. from Animas to Walnut.

#### Sophie's Rock Garden

"We dig dirt!" free compost and container gardening class 11 a.m. - noon Saturday at SRG, 2400 E. Main St. RSVP and information: 719-846-4170. Relay for Life

Las Animas County Kick Off Celebration is May 25 at the Quality Inn, 3125 Toupal Drive. For information contact Becky at becky.hamilton74@yahoo.com.

#### Community Garage Sale

To donate items for the June 4 event drop off gently used, clean articles at 426 Chestnut St., Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information: Jenna Waldschmidt, 719-846-3766. All proceeds benefit Noah's Ark Animal Shelter.

#### Fishing Tournament

Registration for the Stonewall Fire Department's 15th Annual Monument Lake Fishing Tournament on June 4 is due by May 23. Go to www.stonewall-fire.us.

To see water flows at points along the Purgatoire River upstream of Trinidad Reservoir (updated every 15 minutes) and other water quality information, visit [www.purgatoirewatershed.org](http://www.purgatoirewatershed.org)

## RIVER CALL

**Purgatoire river call as of 5/13/11**  
Chillili ditch priority #7 4/30/1862

Trinidad Reservoir accounting  
Release 316.73 AF  
Inflow 31.05 AF  
Evaporation 4.32 AF  
Content 19518 AF  
Elevation 6,179.43  
Precipitation 0  
Downstream river call  
Highland Canal 5/31/1866

#### Notes

1 cubic (cfs) foot per second equals one cubic foot of water passing a point in one second of time.  
1 acre-foot equals a quantity of water required to cover one acre of land to a depth of one foot.  
1 cubic foot per second = 1.9835 acre-feet per day (24 hrs)

To see recent water flow and water quality readings taken on the Apishapa River upstream of Aguilar, visit [www.apishapawatershed.org](http://www.apishapawatershed.org)



# County holds meeting a day early

By David J. Santistevan Jr.  
The Chronicle-News

The Las Animas County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, moving its regular meeting from the usual Tuesday date. The move is a result of the board attending a meeting of the Southeast Workforce Region. The board will be spectators at this meeting, to be held in La Junta at noon on Tuesday.

The BOCC is attending this meeting as guests, in preparation for a requested transitional move from South-Central Workforce Region to the Southeast Workforce Region. A May 24 public hearing is scheduled and needs to be attended by both the Las Animas County Board of Commissioners and the Huerfano

County Commissioners. This meeting will be held in the Las Animas County Commissioners Chambers, starting at 10 a.m.

Las Animas County Administrator Bill Cordova told the board this must be a joint county meeting. The Colorado Workforce Center and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment will conduct the meeting for the request of transition by both counties. This hearing gives the public a stage for comment for or against the move. Gov. John Hickenlooper has the final decision on the transitional move by both counties. The county hopes the move can take place by July 1, and will have to wait one year if the move is not approved. A bi-county joint letter has been

sent out to the state stating why the counties want to make the move. The meeting will be conducted by the state.

Members of the Trinidad-Las Animas County Chamber of Commerce addressed the board about Armed Forces Day, a first for Trinidad. The Chamber invited the board to attend the event and to do a proclamation at the event. There will be a meet and greet at the Coal Miners Memorial Park to meet Las Animas County soldiers, past and present, to honor service personnel.

The chamber wanted to make sure the board received a packet about the collaboration that the chamber is making with other

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Photos by Tim Keller

Tour participants were able to get up close and personal with longhorn cattle at Folsom Falls Ranch Saturday.

# Dry Cimarron Tour is a big hit

By Tim Keller  
The Chronicle-News

FOLSOM, N.M. - Saturday's annual Dry Cimarron Tour tripled its previous attendance record, spurred by a six-page feature on the Brown Ranch in the May issue of New Mexico Magazine.

Sixty participants in 30 cars and trucks came from as far as Las Cruces, N.M., and Medicine Lodge, Kans., for the all-day event. The vehicles snaked their way from the Folsom Museum in Folsom, into Toll Gate Canyon near Branson, then down the Dry Cimarron River valley all the way to Kenton, Okla.

Two-thirds of participants said they'd learned of the event through the New Mexico Magazine feature. Most of the others credited features in The Chronicle-News, the Albuquerque Journal, and National Geographic Traveler, in that order. Of the 30 vehicles, six wore Colorado plates, and six other states were represented as well.

The train of cars stopped 12 times for participants to hear from guides and ranch owners about the long and fascinating history, archaeology, and geology of the valley. The tour began with a presentation at the Folsom Museum and ended with another at the Kenton Museum.

In between, tour stops included Folsom Falls, a close-up meeting with the longhorn cattle of Fred and Marijo Balmer's Folsom Falls Ranch, and a pair of stops in Toll Gate Canyon.



Darien Brown, standing in the back, gave a tour of his ranch's 140-year-old headquarters on the Dry Cimarron River northeast of Folsom.

For many, the trip's highlight was an hour-long visit with Darien Brown and his family, including son Brian Brown of Branson, as they toured the Brown Ranch's 140-year-old headquarters.

The event's sponsor, the Folsom Museum, fed a picnic of barbeque and beans to five-dozen hungry travelers under a giant juniper tree outside Boyd Burchard's ranch house as Burchard and others continued the tour's narrative with tales of settlers, miners, Indians, cowboys, and ranchers. From that vantage, Burchard also gave a detailed demonstration of the valley's complex geology, pointing out fea-

tures along the valley's cliff walls.

Lunch was followed by a tour of the petroglyphs and teepee sites around nearby Alligator Rock. Then the tour proceeded east past noteworthy buttes with colorful and descriptive names like Wedding Cake and Battleship.

Many area lodges, restaurants, and gas stations were thrilled to have so many people driving into the area for the weekend event. Organizers hope for a repeat June 18 when they present the annual half-day Folsom Man Archaeological Site Tour. Information is available from the Folsom Museum at [www.folsom-museum.org](http://www.folsom-museum.org) or (575) 278-2122.

# Measure would raise taxes for education

Associated Press

DENVER — A Democratic state senator is moving forward with a ballot initiative to raise Colorado's income and sales taxes, saying Monday that the hikes will collect about \$3 billion during five years to fund the state's beleaguered education budget.

Backed by a class of fourth-graders at the state Capitol, Boulder Sen. Rollie Heath conceded the business community's muscle is not behind him yet. But he said he would start the process of collecting signatures and raising money to let voters decide on the tax hike in November. The campaign would be driven by concerned parents and grandparents, Heath said.

"This is going to be, I would hope, the greatest

grass-roots effort that this state has seen. This is not going to be one that's driven by big business or labor or anything else," he said.

Heath is proposing to raise the sales and use tax rate to 3 percent, up from 2.9 percent. He also wants to raise the state's individual and corporate tax rates to 5 percent, up from 4.63 percent.

The increases would be in effect from 2012 to 2017 and the money collected would go to kindergarten to 12th grade funding and colleges.

"Simply put, cutting schools and colleges is moving Colorado in the wrong direction. And just when you're driving your car in the wrong direction, the longer you wait to do a U-turn, the longer it takes back to get where you need to be," said Laura McDonald, Longmont mother who spoke in support of the initiative.

# County considers software systems

By David J. Santistevan Jr.  
The Chronicle-News

At the Las Animas County Commission meeting Monday, Greg Dixon of Tyler Technologies talked with the board about its current and future financial software systems for the treasurer's office and accounting/finance offices. The county's current three-year deal with Affiliated Computer Services, Inc., for financial system software services is up on Dec. 31.

Tyler Technologies is on the New York Stock Exchange and has been in the software business for 30 years, providing local governments with software services. The firm now serves over 25 Colorado counties with its software, including Otero County.

Both the treasurer's office and the accounting department have been working with Dixon and his company to look at a deal that would benefit the county. "This would be a good investment for your county and a good business decision for Las Animas County to work with our software," Dixon told the board.

There are two types of software that Dixon can provide the county to save the county money and keep from hiring, to cut costs in these tough financial times, according to Dixon. The company's payroll system is encoding software for finance and payroll systems that has support out of Lubbock, Texas. The other software, for the treasurer's office, is called Eagle Software, with support out of Denver.

"Your offices need to update and move forward to be more efficient," Dixon said. "This will free up money for the county. We would like to come up with a deal by the end of June. It takes us about six months to set up our system. We would run tests in November and December and convert data and finalize before your current contract ends in December, if you approve our service. This is our goal."

Dixon claims that Tyler's software can grow and integrate with other departments in Las Animas County. Staff training is available, Dixon will be on site, and Tyler has website training and will install the equipment.

Commissioner Mack Loudon asked Treasurer Donna Leonetti about the software and she said, "I would like to go to Otero County to see about it, and I still have a lot of questions. Our biggest problem is working with the assessor with address changes and stuff, and we need something that interfaces with the assessor's office. It sounds good, but I need to see how it works first hand before I make a decision."

Kim Chavez, on the payroll side, agreed with Leonetti. "I want to see how the software works and their payroll system works," Chavez said.

## WEATHER WATCH

Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. Breezy, with a west southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. Breezy, with a west wind between 10 and 20 mph.

**Wednesday:** A slight chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 71. Breezy, with a west southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.



**Wednesday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40. Breezy, with a west southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.